



Buzzwords ...

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..... the newsletter for National Beekeepers' Association members

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NEW PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As I sit to write my first report for *Buzzwords* I would like to thank Keith Herron and Ian Berry, my mover and seconder, also all those people who supported my nomination. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort Allen McCaw has given to the New Zealand beekeeping industry. He still has at least one year to serve on the National Executive and I am sure his guidance will be of great value to me.

The goal I have set is to obtain the minimum price of \$2 per kilo for bulk honey and to achieve this support of all beekeepers is required, i.e.:

- * Those who sell to packers
- * Suppliers to NZ Honey Producers Co-op
- * Part-time beekeepers selling at the back door

It would be better if you could put your honey crop at the back of the shed and get a job rather than sell it off cheaply. My experience has shown that honey crops vary greatly from year to year. There are successful beekeepers in New Zealand who control their honey stocks by holding over portions of their crop. Honey is a wonderful product and can be kept in drums, safely sealed for many years. I realise that it is much easier for a North Island beekeeper to use this method as they get a cash flow from pollination. But I am sure that all beekeepers can improve their position by taking this action.

Please keep in mind the honey packer no matter who he may be has to cover his packing and distribution costs and still make a profit. In my opinion a brighter future should be made possible for beekeepers if we set and kept a minimum bulk price for honey and worked to increase our export markets.

I wish to thank those members who have mentioned concern about my health. To clear any doubts may I explain I have chronic leukaemia which is a treatable disease, but can not be cured. My doctors have assured, indeed encouraged me, to accept this position as no ill effects such as stress, etc, will affect my health. May I thank members and friends of the industry for their encouraging support while I was in hospital and convalescing recently. It was so heart warming to hear of similar cases with 'back to normal' living. Thanking you all sincerely.

Dudley Ward, NBA president

COMMODITY LEVIES BILL

We've just heard that the bill was introduced into the House on Tuesday, 17 July, and should be available for study from Government Printers shortly. The cut off date for written submissions is 3 August and the Select Committee will be hearing any oral submissions on 7 and 7 August.

This is very short notice but Government wants to get this bill through this session so the 20 or so organisations like the NBA can start preparing regulations to levy their members. Funds raised under this bill will be used for a number of things with very strict rules as to how the money can be spent and how it is to audited and accounted for.

The NBA will probably propose an apiary fee of \$20 for the first apiary and \$6 for each additional apiary and will most likely begin collecting these in 1991. These moneys (which are quite distinct from the hive levy) will be used to contract MAF to maintain the apiary registers and hive inspections service and possibly to provide funding for research.

NBA executive/MAF



THE CASE OF THE HONEY POT ...

Do you remember the story of Hilda Hislop and her jar of imported honey that 'nearly spread disaster through our kiwifruit crops'? Well, this was just a story published several years ago by MAF to try and make people aware of the dangers of importing honey and some bee products into New Zealand, but the risks are still very real.

According to the latest statistics from MAF's Border Protection Service there were 2700 'Hilda Hislops' out there last year who brought honey bee products or used beekeeping

equipment to New Zealand. Of course we don't know how many travellers had honey with them, and didn't declare it and were not picked up by spot checks.

The points to note from the statistics are the huge number of air travellers coming into New Zealand and the large number of people found with quarantine items who didn't declare them. All yachts coming to New Zealand also have honey on board but very little honey or bee products are sent by mail.

Aircraft and passengers

Total passengers	1,700,000
Total aircraft	12,000
Total passengers with quarantine items	700,000
Total passengers with undeclared quarantine items	188,000

Mail clearance

Total packages (air)	66,183,000
Total packages (sea)	12,000,000
Total packages inspected	48,000

Seizures include

Fruit fly hosts	10,500
Other plant products	14,000
Bee products	2,700
Meat and dairy products	6,800
Other animal products	4,084

Seizure origins

Australia	29 %
Pacific Islands	17 %
South East Asia	14 %
Japan	13 %
North America	12 %
EC and Scandinavia	7 %
Asia and Middle East	3 %
Africa	2 %
South and Central America	2 %
Eastern Europe	1 %

BEE GENETIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

This scheme is now underway and deserves the full support of the industry. Act quickly if you want to participate; it is likely that the only way to join the scheme in future years will be to buy out someone else's share.

National Executive

In recent years there has been pressure to import superior or alternative genetic material, resulting in a move within the industry to select from and improve the gene pool already in New Zealand. At the 1989 Conference David Yanke put forward a draft proposal for a closed population breeding programme. Following subsequent modification the scheme was again studied at 1990 Conference and a steering committee appointed to handle business arrangements. A financial structure is being set up to provide for limited but transferrable shareholding whereby participants receive an A.I. breeder each year in return for their contribution.

The proposal is for 25 participants (the parameters are 20 to 30). Provision is being made for smaller beekeepers to take 'shares in a share' (and share their breeder). An establishment fund has been initiated with subscriptions of \$50 per prospective participant invited. The programme has the aim of developing the genetic base of current New Zealand stock with an ongoing improvement programme similar to that run in Australia. Therefore, it is necessary that as wide a base as possible is started from and applications and/or queens are being invited from all commercial beekeepers. It is probable that many of our established commercial honey producers have as much to offer in genetic base and stand to benefit more themselves than the main commercial queen breeders.

The Western Australian Bee Breeding Programme has been going 10 years. Quotes from their advertising brochure include: 'The productivity of these bees increases genetically by at least 10% per year' and 'A.I. breeders cost \$500 to \$1000 (Aust), on written request'. Our New Zealand scheme is expected to cost approximately \$650 per year per



shareholder (for one A.I. breeder) - for your average business that's about the cost of an empty queen cage per hive!

Several beekeepers have already supplied queens with further promises made. The balance of the input queens will be required by early September. Arrangements can be made for replacement queens in return where necessary.

Please register your interest immediately by forwarding \$50 to 'NZ Bee Genetic Improvement Group', c/- John Bassett, P.O. Box 387, Te Kuiti, telephone (0813) 87-193.

Arrangements regarding forwarding queens should be made with David Yanke, Parau, R.D. 3, Kaitia, telephone (0889) 72-895.

APICULTURE SERVICES MANAGER SOUTH ISLAND

MAF Quality Management is seeking to appoint an Apiculture Services Manager to work with the beekeeping industry and MAF staff throughout the South Island.

The position involves responsibility for systems which aim to contain the spread of endemic disease and prevent the introduction of new pests and diseases. Provision of consultancy services, export certification and policy advice are also key responsibilities.

We are looking for a person with strong leadership and communication skills who desires to work in a client oriented organisation. Experience in the beekeeping industry is essential. Preference may be given to someone with a relevant tertiary qualification.

Lincoln is the desired location for the position and the successful applicant must be prepared to travel regularly.

If you have the experience and motivation to fill this position, apply in writing, including a CV and the names of two referees.

Lynett Gray
Administration Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Private Bag
CHRISTCHURCH

For further enquiries, please phone (03) 794 100.

MAF IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND BRANCH

South Western Districts branch is no more! Long live Southern North Island!

One of the remits to conference asked the National Executive to reconsider the request for a name change. Agreed by conference with over-whelming support, the change was formally approved by national executive. Now all we've got to change is the stationery...

And as a first announcement from the branch, please note that they will be holding a post-conference branch meeting at the Rotary Club rooms, 30 Linton Street, Palmerston North, on 6 August beginning at 10 am.

REMITTS TO CONFERENCE

One of the remits to conference asked that more reports be given back to branches about remits passed at conference. In 'the old days' the *NZ Beekeeper* issue immediately after conference contained a blow by blow description of the arguments and amendments. In fact, very few people used to read them, as discovered when the NBA conducted an exhaustive questionnaire on the *Beekeeper* several years ago.

There are, in fact, a number of ways that individuals and branches can keep themselves up to date with actions being taken. A good place to start is with the Industry Plan (circulated several months ago with *Buzzwords*). This gives a longer term view of what the industry is planning to do.

Your branch secretary and president also get a copy of the national executive minutes which are available to you at any time. As well, the formal minutes of the annual meeting and conference of delegates are sent to them. By following an item through the minutes you can determine what stage the actions are at and who is currently responsible for doing something.

Each year the NBA president prepares a comprehensive annual report which gives an overview with considerable detail of what has been happening throughout the year.

At any time, as an individual or a branch, you can approach a national executive member directly to ask about any issue that concerns you. You can address such a question

to individual national executive members or to the NBA executive secretary, P.O. Box 4048, Wellington. If a response isn't available on the spot, you can certainly expect to get one.

Buzzwords also reports on a number of issues through the year that may have had an origin as a remit. There are no current plans for simply listing remits and the actions taken on them.

REDUCING COST OF PRODUCTION

Another remit to conference this year has asked the executive to investigate and encourage the reduction of the cost of producing a tonne of honey. Most of the discussion acknowledged that the ideas and equipment suggestions will come from beekeepers themselves, and that the national executive could do a service by co-ordinating and disseminating information. Have you got any ideas, either specific or general, about how the cost of production could be reduced? Any tried (or untried) schemes or plans, revolutionary changes to equipment or management, that might give New Zealand beekeepers that competitive edge?

BRANCH NOTES

Saint Bartholomew is apparently the patron saint of beekeeping. Be that as it may, his day in August is certainly a good time for a social - shake off those winter blues and get ready for spring.

Marlborough branch get it together for St Bart's day - Saturday 25 August, 7.30 pm, Rod McKenzie's place at 13 March Street. BYO.

Marlborough's disease inspection day is on Saturday 7 October. Contact Sue Jenkins (89 325) by 25 August if you're going to help.

APICULTURAL SLUMS

That was the eye-catching headline in an Aussie beekeeping magazine. It's a pretty good description of a few apiaries we all see occasionally. The writer went on to say that "the condition into which a few apiarists permit their hives to descend is a credit neither to themselves nor to the industry. The sight of some of these apiaries is enough to put the beholder off eating honey for life. Such apiaries may be seen by forest workers and by motorists who are enjoying the countryside over the weekend. Some of the offensive apiaries are sited even in full view of the road. It is high time that those apiarists made a drastic improvement in this matter."

MAF Tauranga

TOURISTS CAN'T SPEND THEIR MONEY

New Zealand is losing points by default in the international competition for tourist dollars.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors depart with bulging

wallets and unfulfilled hopes, disappointed because their "New Zealand Experience" - although generally enjoyed in every other respect - has denied them opportunities to spend more money on things they really wanted to buy.

Investigation by the New Zealand Trade Development Board indicates that our own neglect is costing us tens of millions of dollars each year in "lost" foreign exchange earnings.

For most visits, New Zealand's main attractions are the sheer variety of magnificent scenery; opportunities to enjoy all types of sports and recreational activities; our reputation as a land of warm, open, friendly people living in a clean and healthy environment. Increasingly, many are also motivated by opportunities to develop trade and business links.



But they all want to do some shopping as well, shopping that generally depends on finding places and conveniently timed opportunities to purchase items that will serve as permanent reminders of New Zealand as they perceive it - regions visited, people they've enjoyed meeting, happy experiences shared.

They seek products that are immediately identifiable with New Zealand - items that will serve to reinforce their memories, impress others, or make good gifts for family and friends.

A recent Trade Development Board survey shows that visitors buy "honey/ spreads/jams" as souvenirs to the tune of \$400,000 in 1988/89, double that in the previous year. We don't know how much of this is honey but we do know that attractive packs of spreads make a great souvenir

This is an area with potential for a lot more sales, so that tourists don't head home with so many traveller's cheques uncashed.

BUZZWORDS IS ...

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